Pruning of Unproductive Expenditure

990. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his address to the Sixth meeting of the Inter-State Council on May, 20, 2000 referred to the steps being taken by Central Government to prune unproductive expenditure; and

(b) if so, the extent of unproductive expenditure incurred by the Central Government during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and how far it is likely to be reduced this year, indicating the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information in regard to unproductive expenditure incurred by the various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government is not maintained centrally. However, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to reduce unproductive expenditure and instructions are issued in this regard from time to time to all the Ministries/ Departments, which include restrictions on the creation of new posts, review of vacant posts before they are filled up, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc.

Loan to Small Scale Units

991. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loan/assistance given by the Central Government to the small scale units functioning in the Metropolitan cities and other rural and urban areas of the country during the last three years till date; and

(b) the details of various incentives being provided to small scale industries by Government at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the total advances by Public